

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-16 and 22-34 from the application without prejudice.

1. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method of producing a fiber from a molten viscous liquid; comprising the steps of:

extruding a stream of a molten viscous liquid in a manner so as to flow from a supply source into a pressure chamber wherein the stream has a first circumference;

supplying a focusing fluid to the pressure chamber whereby the fluid enters through an entrance port of the pressure chamber and exits through an exit port of the pressure chamber positioned downstream of the flow of the stream of molten viscous liquid;

wherein the focusing fluid surrounds the stream of molten viscous fluid and compresses the first circumference creating a narrowed stream of a second circumference narrower than the first circumference, which narrowed stream is expelled from the exit port of the pressure chamber as a fiber.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the molten viscous liquid is molten silica glass.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the focusing fluid is a gas.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the gas is a heated inert gas.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the gas exits the exit opening of the pressure chamber at supersonic speed.

22. – 34. (Canceled)